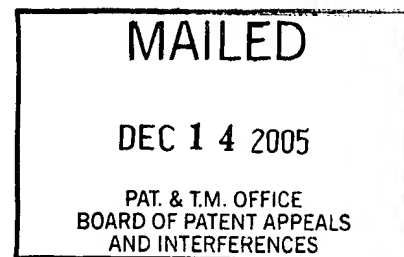


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte STEVE ANDERSON PLATT

Application No. 09/981,231



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on October 26, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

On October 20, 2005, appellant filed a reply brief in response to the Examiner's answer mailed August 17, 2005. However, there is no indication on the record whether or not the examiner has responded to the reply brief. Section § 1208.03 of

Application No. 09/981,231

the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (8th ed., Aug. 2001)

states:

[A]ppellant may file a reply brief as a matter of right within 2 months from the mailing date of the examiner's answer. . . . The primary must then either: (A) acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief by using form paragraph 12.47 on form PTOL-90; or (B) reopen prosecution to respond to the reply brief. See MPEP § 1208.02 [emphasis added].

The examiner should also consider the timeliness of the reply brief.

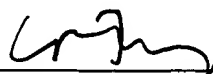
Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner: 1) for proper response to the reply brief filed October 20, 2005; and 2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By: _____


Craig R. Feinberg
Program and Resource Administrator
(571) 272-9797

Application No. 09/981,231

cc: PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON, LLP
695 KENMOOR, S.E.
P O BOX 2567
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501

CRF/lbg